



NATIONAL ELECTRONIC DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (NEDSS)

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM?

- Surveillance – the ongoing, systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of health-related data – is the foundation of CDC's prevention and control programs and is essential to program planning, implementation and evaluation. Surveillance is needed to detect epidemics or a bioterrorist event.
- We know that most current surveillance systems are neither complete nor efficient.
- CDC has a vision of how advances in information technology can lead to better public health surveillance.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

CDC has been instrumental in developing a data model and guidelines that recommend a minimum set of data that should be collected as part of the routine surveillance. As a result of this, in FY 2001, implementation of the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) was initiated with \$27 million made available for this purpose. CDC has developed the NEDSS Base System, a platform for states to use for entering, updating, and electronically transmitting demographic and notifiable disease data. During FY 2001 and FY 2002, CDC provided approximately \$20 million to a total of 36 health jurisdictions for NEDSS development activities, including 20 jurisdictions that received support for the NEDSS Base System. CDC also provided assessment and planning funds to an additional 7 health jurisdictions.

NEDSS is based on the use of data standards and a common architecture, whether in systems developed by states or by CDC. NEDSS standards also are consistent with relevant software industry standards to facilitate use of commercial software products when appropriate. NEDSS will allow rapid reporting of disease trends to control outbreaks. It will increase the volume, accuracy, completeness and timeliness of data available for outbreak detection and therefore will enhance CDC's ability to monitor and protect the public from diseases of public health importance as well as bioterrorist attacks.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

To implement NEDSS, CDC will (1) continue to deploy the NEDSS Base System to 19 states and 1 city health department in 2003 (2) continue to develop and implement national data standards for surveillance and reporting; (3) establish local, state and regional demonstration projects that will create electronic linkages among health care data systems; and (4) provide standards and technical assistance to maintain consistent stringent security standards to protect confidentiality.

For additional information on this and other CDC programs, visit www.cdc.gov/programs.

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